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ABSTRACT

As part of a review of its Interior Design department, William Rainey Harper College in Illinois conducted a study of graduates and current students in fall 1994 to determine student goals, actual outcomes, and perceptions of program quality. Questionnaires were sent to 197 graduates from 1989 to 1994 and a sample of 250 current students; responses were received from 128 graduates and 169 current students. Study findings included the following: (1) while 34% of the current students expected to work in a small design firm, only 3% of the graduates were doing so; (2) conversely, while 29% of the students expected to develop their own business, 44% of the graduates had done so; (3) only 5% of the students expected to work in furniture sales, though 32% of the graduates worked in that area; (4) 82% of the current students took 1 or 2 interior design courses per semester, while 81% intended to earn an associate degree in interior design; (5) current students planning to work full-time in interior design expected to earn $24,000 per year, while the mean annual full-time salary for graduates was $26,300; and (6) with respect to their level of preparation, graduates felt best prepared for furniture sales, working with a small firm, and window treatment. The graduate and current student questionnaires are appended. (BCY)

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

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October 1995

STUDY OF INTERIOR DESIGN CURRENT STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of these studies was to survey interior design graduates and current students in order to provide information for the Program Review of the Interior Design Department. All 197 graduates of the last five years and a sample of 250 current students were surveyed. After two mailings and a telephone follow-up, response rates of 65 to 68 percent were obtained.

Results of the studies indicated large discrepancies between student expectations, reality and future aspirations as to types of work in the interior design field. Students aspiring to a career in design hope to work for a design firm or teach interior design, but most design jobs available to graduates involve sales or owning a business.

The question was also raised as to whether the right types of students were enrolling or whether students, in spite of these aspiration discrepancies, were still performing well and satisfied in the jobs actually available.

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Purpose

The purpose of these studies was to follow-up interior design graduates and to survey current students to provide information for the Program Review of the Interior Design Department. The coordinator of the Interior Design program requested the studies.

Methodology and Population Surveyed

Graduates were defined as interior design majors who had received a degree and who had attended Harper College in the last five years. The population meeting this criteria amounted to 197 students. Current students were defined as interior design majors without a degree and were registered in at least one interior design course during the fall of 1994. There were 285 students who met this criteria and 250 were randomly sampled from this group. The survey instruments shown in the appendix were developed jointly by the Office of Planning and Research and the two interior design full-time faculty.

The surveys were mailed twice and non-responders were followed up by a telephone call. The response rates were as follows:

Survey	Survey Population	Number of Responses	Response Rate
Interior Design Graduates	197	128	65.0
Current Interior Design Students	250	169	67.6

Major Conclusions

There are huge discrepancies between the type of interior design jobs students expect to get and the types of jobs graduates actually get and the jobs these graduates aspire to in the future. Figure 1 on the following page shows, for example, that 34 percent of the students expect to work in a small design firm, but in practice only 3 percent of the graduates reach this goal. Twenty-five percent of the graduates aspire to work in a small design firm in the future.

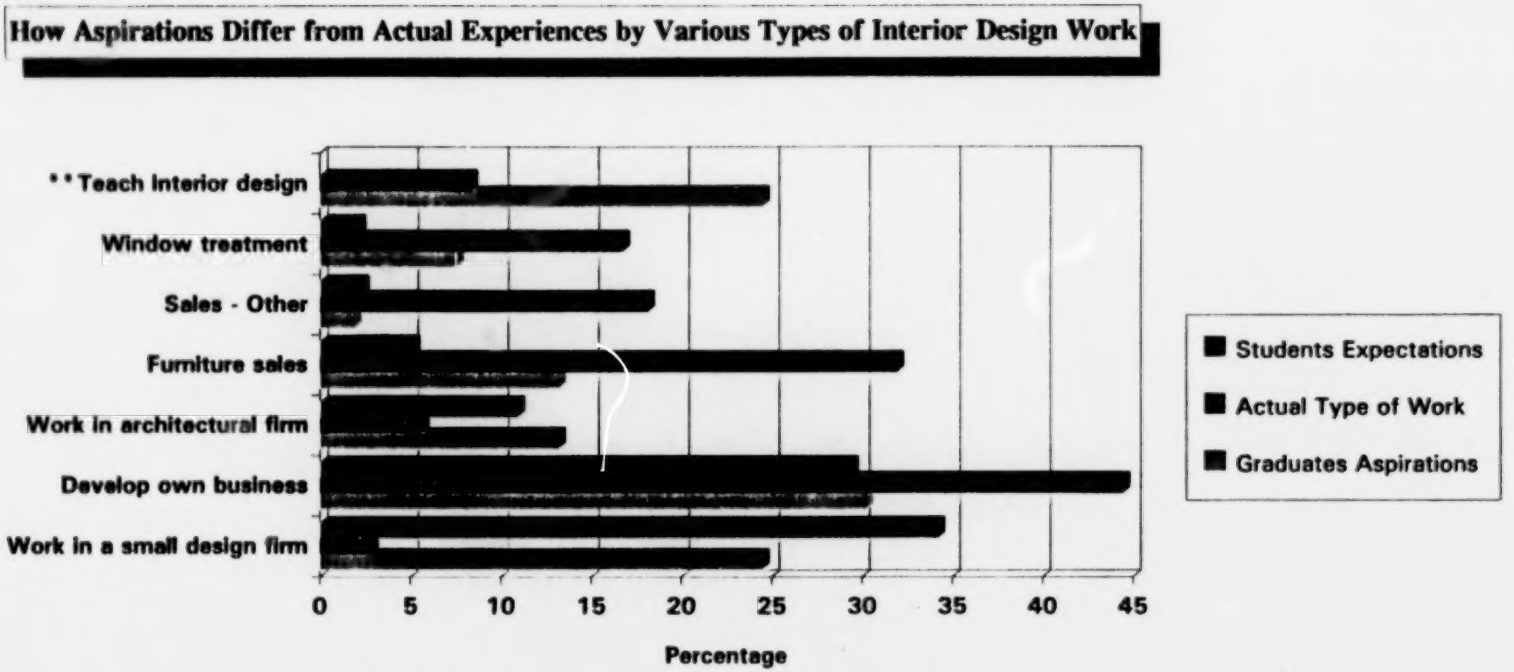
On the other hand, 29 percent of the students expect to develop their own business, but in the real world, 44 percent of the graduates have their own business even though only 30 aspire to this. Only five percent of the students expect to work in furniture sales, but 32 percent of the graduates do work in this area, while only 13 percent of the graduates aspire to do this in the future.

Teaching interior design was not offered as a choice in the current student survey, but among graduates, eight percent now teach interior design and 25 percent aspire to do this in the future. It appears that the structure of the interior design job market differs substantially from the expectations and aspirations of interior design students and graduates.

In the new curriculum there is a more realistic appraisal of the job market available to Harper interior design graduates. However, when the data is broken out by earlier students and graduates - those taking mostly the old curriculum - and more recent students and graduates - those taking mostly the new curriculum - the discrepancies still persist. This would indicate the entering interest of students is such that, in spite of a realistic appraisal of the job market, they still aspire to move away from owning their own business and furniture sales toward working in a small design firm, an architectural firm or toward teaching interior design.

Moreover, there may be significant differences between available jobs in interior design, their requirements and the type of students drawn to the field and their preparation level. Figure 2 shows this difference. The largest number of jobs in interior design consist of owning businesses (44%) and furniture sales (32%). Yet when students are asked to identify the primary way they learn, most say by hands-on (77%) and the least say by making presentations (3%). It should be pointed out that in spite of their learning preferences they all make presentations in their classes. In addition, only five percent of the

Figure 1



** Teaching Interior design not a choice for student expectations

Chart Produced by Harper's Planning and Research Staff

Major Conclusions (cont'd)

students take a course in small business management, only four percent take the merchandising courses and only eight percent take the salesmanship course. When graduates were asked how well they were prepared in various areas they indicated they were between somewhat and well prepared for having their own business and for furniture sales.

It appears that apprising students of the realistic future ahead of them is not enough. There may be a major mismatch between the interests and abilities of students entering the interior design field and the jobs which are available for them. Another interpretation of the data might be that in spite of their entering interests, aspirations and preferred learning styles, they still perform well and are satisfied owning a business or being in furniture sales. A more specific survey of graduates working in these two fields would determine which of these two interpretations is correct.

FIGURE 2

Disparity Between Types of Students Enrolled and Degree of Preparation and Actual Employment Experience

Types of Current Interior Design Students	Preparation of Current Interior Design Students	Actual Experience of Graduates
Earlier Students	Earlier Students	Earlier Graduates
Learn best by hands-on 75 percent Learn best by giving presentations 2 percent	Taken Small Business Mgmt. 6 percent Taken Merchandising 6 percent Taken Salesmanship 10 percent	Own Business 43 percent Work in Furniture Sales 30 percent
More Recent Students	More Recent Students	More Recent Students
Learn best by hands-on 81 percent Learn best by giving presentations 4 percent	Taken Small Business Mgmt. 2 percent Taken Merchandising none Taken Salesmanship 2 percent	Own Business 47 percent Work in Furniture Sales 37 percent

Preparation of Interior Design Graduates
Both Earlier and More Recent Graduates

Furniture Sales - less than well prepared
Own Business - Somewhat prepared

Discussion of Results of Current Interior Design Students

Almost all (82%) take one or two interior design (IND) courses per semester, while the rest take three to five such courses. Most (62%) typically take no general education electives during the semester, and the overall average shows they only take one general education course every other semester.

The vast majority (81%) intend to earn an associate degree in interior design while another nine percent already have a bachelor's degree so do not need an associate degree. Recent students are more likely to already have a bachelor's degree than earlier ones (13% vs. 7%). Those planning to achieve an associate degree expect on the average, to take four years to complete their goal, but recent students plan to complete their degree in less time. Less than half (41%) of this group have withdrawn from at least one interior design course, and 61 percent of the reasons are external to Harper College. The median number of hours spent per week on homework for each interior design course is seven hours but recent students spend less time (5.5 hrs/wk vs. 8.2hrs/wk).

Discussion of Results of Current Interior Design Students (cont'd)

Students were asked how they would respond being able to take more interior design courses in the evening or on Saturday morning. Some 40 percent said they would enroll for 1.4 desired interior design courses per semester offered in the evening, while 23 percent indicated they would enroll for one interior design course per semester offered on Saturday morning. If an open lab for interior design were staffed by an interior design instructor, 55 percent of the students would definitely use it. However, if the open lab were staffed by an interior design student tutor, only 24 percent would definitely use it. Only five percent use the Tutoring Center and only another 16 percent are even aware of the Tutoring Center even though they do not use it.

The most popular courses students are interested in enrolling in outside of the interior design core curriculum are accessorizing, arts and antiques, and kitchen and bath design. Accessorizing and arts and antiques are also the top two choices for graduates to take as continuing education. Kitchen and bath design are further down the desired list for graduates probably because so few (7%) work in this specialty. Small business management and sales were not an option for current students to choose in this item even though these are the most likely fields in which they will work. In actual practice, only 4.6 percent have taken small business management and only 7.6 percent have taken sales. Recent students were less likely to want to take presentation skills but more likely than earlier students to want to take marketing design skills, hotel and restaurant design, visual marketing, set design, drafting and perspective and rendering.

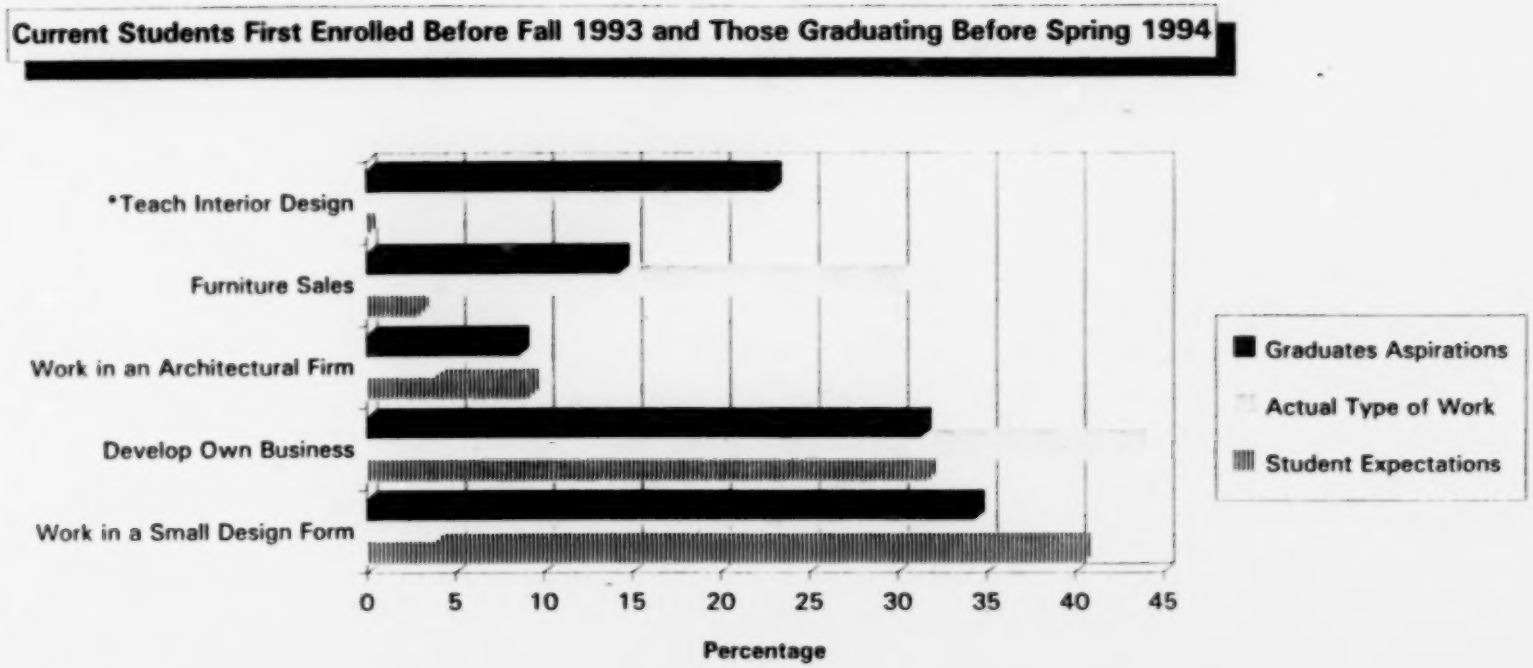
When asked to compare the old curriculum with the new curriculum, 48 percent of the current students indicated they had taken at least one course in the old curriculum. Among these students, the new curriculum is rated a little better than the old curriculum. There is little difference in schedule and load between the two curricula, but the new curriculum is rated a little better for being able to manage the workload better, and it is judged to be much easier to focus under the new curriculum.

Field trips are highly valued in the learning process and trips to the Merchandise Mart are, by far, the most favorably perceived means for interior designers to obtain source material. Students perceive they learn best by hands-on exercises and learn least by giving presentations. It should be pointed out that students are required to give presentations in their classes. Yet the bulk of these students will be running their own businesses or working in sales where it would seem that giving presentations would be very important. The most frequent ways students found out about the Interior Design Program at Harper College was through the College catalog, word-of-mouth and the semester schedule mailed to their home. Some 57 percent of the students are less than 30 minutes travel time from Harper College, but recent students travel further to Harper than earlier students - 39 minutes vs. 25 minutes.

In looking at their future, 65 percent of the students plan to either make a career change into interior design or make interior design their first career after graduation but this is much more the case for earlier students rather than more recent students - 70 percent vs. 50 percent. Another nine percent are in the field now but plan to change interior design specialties upon graduation. Two-thirds of those planning to work expect full-time employment which is fairly close to what actually happens to graduates (53% employed full time). Those planning to work full time expect to earn $24,000 per year which is a little less than what graduates are earning. Recent students expect to earn less than earlier students - $20,300 vs. $25,500. Some 60 percent of the students plan to work immediately after graduation while 17 percent are uncertain about employment. This is close to reality, since 23 percent of the graduates are not employed by choice. In terms of commuting, two thirds say they are willing to drive up to 30 miles to work where in reality 69 percent of the graduates travel less than 10 miles to work. Recent students are willing to travel much farther to work than earlier students - 38.4 miles vs. 24.7 miles. Forty-six percent of the students are planning to take the NCIDQ exam and be registered by the state. However, among the graduates only eight percent have passed the NCIDQ exam and are registered by the state, and only 27 percent more are planning to do it in the near future. Recent students are more likely to plan to take the NCIDQ exam and be registered by the state - 56.2 percent vs. 40.7 percent.

The biggest discrepancy between student expectations and reality comes in types of jobs in the interior design field. Tables 1a and 1b on pages 5, 6, and 7 show these discrepancies.

Table 1A

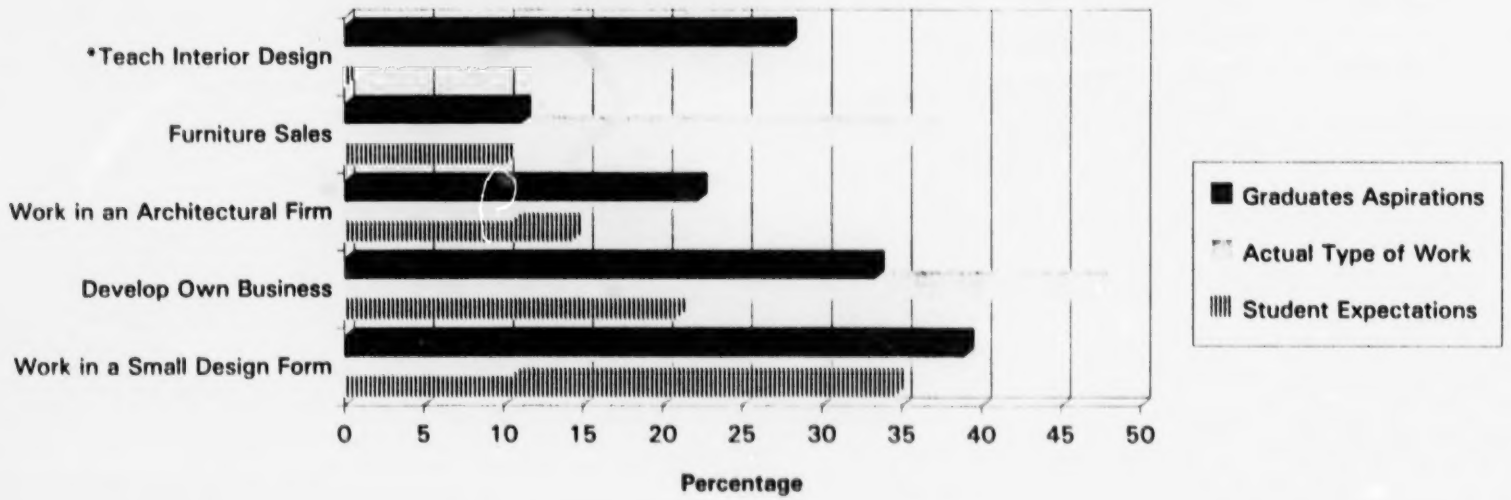


*Teaching Interior Design not a choice for student expectation

Chart Produced by Harper's Planning and Research Staff

Table 1B

Current Students First Enrolled Fall 1993 and More Recently and Those Graduating Spring 1994 and More Recently



*Teaching Interior Design not a choice for student expectations

Chart Produced by Harper's Planning and Research Staff

TABLE 1a

Current Students First Enrolled Before Fall 1993

and Those Graduating Before Spring 1994

Type of Job in Interior Design	Type of Job Current Students Expect	Actual Type of Job Graduates Are In	Jobs Graduates Aspire to in the Future
- Work in a small design firm	40.4%	3.8%	34.3%
- Develop own business	31.7%	43.4%	31.3%
- Work in architectural firm	9.1%	3.8%	8.6%
- Furniture sales	2.9%	30.2%	14.3%
- Kitchen & bath specialty	3.4%	5.7%	11.4%
- Sales - Other	1.4%	22.6%	0
- Window Treatment	1.9%	17.0%	2.9%
- Manufacturer's Representative	1.9%	5.7%	11.4%
- Teach Interior Design	Not a choice	3.8%	22.9%
- Visual Retail Display Merchandising	1.0%	7.5%	2.9%

TABLE 1b

Current Students First Enrolled Fall 1993 and More Recently

and Those Graduating Spring 1994 and More Recently

Type of Job in Interior Design	Type of Job Current Students Expect	Actual Type of Job Graduates Are In	Jobs Graduates Aspire to in the Future
- Work in a small design firm	34.5%	10.5%	38.9%
- Develop own business	20.8%	47.4%	33.3%
- Work in an architectural firm	14.3%	10.5%	22.2%
- Furniture Sales	10.1%	36.8%	11.1%
- Kitchen and Bath Specialty	2.4%	10.5%	5.6%
- Sales - Other	4.1%	5.3%	5.6%
- Window Treatment	2.4%	10.5%	11.1%
- Manufacturer's Representative	1.8%	5.3%	5.6%
- Teach Interior Design	Not a choice	21.1%	27.8%
- Visual Retail Display Merchandising	2.4%	10.5%	5.6%

Detailed Results - Survey of Current Interior Design Students at Harper College

		First Enrolled Before Fall '93		First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently	
A-	Number of Interior Design Courses Students Typically Take Each Semester	N	PCT	N	PCT
	One	40	36.0	16	29.6
	Two	52	46.9	27	50.0
	Three	17	15.3	7	13.0
	Four	1	.9	4	7.4
	Five	1	.9	0	0
	Total	111	100.0	54	100.0
	Average Interior Design Courses Per Semester	1.84		1.98	
B-	Number of General Education Courses Students Typically Take Each Semester	N	PCT	N	PCT
	None	66	58.9	37	69.8
	One	33	29.5	9	17.0
	Two	10	8.9	4	7.5
	Three	3	2.7	1	1.9
	Four	0	0	2	3.8
	Total	112	100.0	53	100.0
	Average General Education Courses Per Semester	.55		.53	
C-	Degree Goals of Students at Harper	N	PCT	N	PCT
	- Earn an associate degree in Interior Design	91	81.3	41	75.9
	- Already have a bachelors degree/do not need an associate degree	8	7.1	7	13.0
	- Have no degree - just plan to take a few courses in Interior Design	7	6.3	3	5.6
	- Earn an associate degree in another field (sign language, business education, medicine, early childhood education and architectural tech)	6	5.3	2	3.7
	- Already have an associate degree/do not need another associate degree	0	0	1	1.8
	Total	112	100.0	54	100.0
D-	For Those Planning to Earn an Associate Degree at Harper in Interior Design, Length of Time Expected to Earn Degree	N	PCT	N	PCT
	Two Years	14	14.9	8	18.2
	Three Years	19	20.2	12	27.3
	Four Years	28	29.8	16	36.3
	Five or more years	33	35.1	8	18.2
	Total	94	100.0	44	100.0
	Average	4.20		3.73	
		N	PCT	N	PCT
E-	Those Who Have Dropped Interior Design Classes	47	42.3	20	39.2
	Those Who Have Never Dropped Interior Design Classes	64	57.7	31	60.8
	Total	111	100.0	51	100.0

Those Who Have Dropped Interior Design Classes at Harper College, the Reasons for Doing So	First Enrolled Before Fall 1993 N	PCT of 47	First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently N	PCT of 20
- Outside Responsibilities	23	48.9	13	65.0
- Took too many course	9	19.1	3	15.0
- Course times proved to be too inconvenient	8	17.0	3	15.0
- Personality conflicts with the instructor	6	12.8	3	15.0
- Health Reasons	6	12.8	1	5.0
- Course inappropriate for student needs	5	10.6	1	5.0
- Course was canceled	4	8.5	1	5.0
- Course level too difficult	2	4.3	2	10.0
- Was inadequately prepared	3	6.4	0	0
- Instructor kept changing course times	2	4.3	0	0
- Having a baby	0	0	1	5.0
- Financial problems	1	2.1	0	0
- Instructor not organized	1	2.1	0	0

F- Hours per Week Spent on Homework for One Interior Design Course Each Semester

	N	PCT	N	PCT
1 - 3 hours	10	9.1	11	21.6
4 - 6 hours	33	30.0	22	43.1
7 - 9 hours	21	19.1	8	15.7
10 - 12 hours	18	16.3	5	9.8
13 - 15 hours	7	6.4	1	2.0
16 - 20 hours	11	10.0	4	7.8
21 - 25 hours	9	8.2	0	0
26 - 30 hours	1	.9	0	0
Total	110	100.0	51	100.0
Average	9.8 Hours		6.6 Hours	
Median	8.2 Hours		5.5 Hours	

G- Number of Courses Students Would Enroll in if Desired Courses were offered in the Evening or on Saturday Morning

First Enrolled Before Fall 1993	N	PCT	Those Who Would Enroll in at Least One Desired Course if Offered in Evening N	PCT	Average Number
Typically day student	54	70.1	18	33.3	1.22
Typically evening student	23	29.9	13	56.5	1.46
Total	77	100.0	31	40.3	1.32

First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently	N	PCT	Those Who Would Enroll in at Least One Desired Course if Offered in Evening N	PCT	Average Number
Typically day student	23	60.5	5	21.7	1.60
Typically evening student	15	39.5	10	66.7	1.70
Total	38	100.0	15	39.5	1.67

First Enrolled Before Fall 1993	N	PCT	Those Who Would Enroll in at Least One Desired Course if Offered Saturday Morning N	PCT	Average Number
Typically day student	54	70.1	10	18.5	1.10
Typically evening student	23	29.9	8	34.8	1.12
Total	77	100.0	18	23.4	1.11

First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently			Those Who Would Enroll in at Least One Desired Course if Offered Saturday Morning		
	N	PCT	N	PCT	Average Number
Typically day student	23	60.5	3	13.0	1.00
Typically evening student	15	39.5	5	33.3	1.00
Total	38	100.0	8	21.1	1.00

H- Students Who Would Use Interior Design Open Lab if Available

First Enrolled Before Fall 1993

If Staffed with an Interior Design Instructor			If Staffed with An Interior Design Student Tutor		
	N	PCT		N	PCT
Would definitely use it	64	58.7	Would definitely use it	25	25.0
Might use it	38	34.9	Might use it	60	60.0
Definitely would not use it	7	6.4	Definitely would not use it	15	15.0
Total	109	100.0	Total	100	100.0

First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently

If Staffed with an Interior Design Instructor			If Staffed with An Interior Design Student Tutor		
	N	PCT		N	PCT
Would definitely use it	24	47.0	Would definitely use it	10	20.4
Might use it	21	41.2	Might use it	28	57.1
Definitely would not use it	6	11.8	Definitely would not use it	11	22.5
Total	51	100.0	Total	49	100.0

I- The Best Times for a Student to Use Interior Design Open Lab	First Enrolled Before Fall 1993		First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently	
	N	PCT	N	PCT
9 - 11 a.m.	38	40.4	10	22.2
1 - 3 p.m.	20	21.3	10	22.2
4 - 6 p.m.	12	12.8	12	26.7
7 - 9 p.m.	24	25.5	13	28.9
Total	94	100.0	45	100.0

J- Familiarity with the Tutoring Center	First Enrolled Before Fall 1993		First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently	
	N	PCT	N	PCT
- Use the Center	7	6.3	1	1.9
- Know about Center but never had to use it	19	17.1	7	13.5
- Know little about the Tutoring Center	85	76.6	44	84.6
Total	111	100.0	52	100.0

K- If Tutoring were Available, Areas Students Would be Interested in Being Tutored-112 or 66 Percent Selected at Least One Area

	First Enrolled Before Fall 1993		First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently	
	N	PCT of 78	N	PCT of 34
- Drafting	34	43.6	11	32.4
- Verbal Presentations	23	29.5	8	23.5
- Space Planning	11	14.1	6	17.6
- Board Layout	13	16.7	8	8.8
- Materials and Finishes	12	15.4	3	8.8
- Test Taking	9	11.5	3	8.8
- Note Taking and General Studies	5	6.4	4	11.8
- Furniture History	6	7.7	1	2.9
- General questions about course organization when instructor not accessible	2	2.6	1	2.9
- Perspective Drawing	1	1.3	1	2.9
- Job resumes	1	1.3	0	0
- Mathematics	0	0	1	2.9
- Lettering	0	0	1	2.9
- CAD	1	1.3	0	0
- Organizational Skill	0	0	1	2.9
- Business Applications	1	1.3	0	0
- Listening Skills	0	0	1	2.9

L- Additional Coursework Outside the Interior Design Core Curriculum Students Would Like to Take - 152 or 90 Percent Listed at Least One Course

	N	PCT of 105	N	PCT of 47
- Accessorizing	59	56.2	27	57.4
- Arts and Antiques	58	55.2	23	48.9
- Kitchen and Bath Design	54	51.4	23	48.9
- Window Treatments	45	42.9	17	36.2
- Faux Finishing	42	40.0	17	36.2
- Architecture Detailing	41	39.0	18	38.3
- Furniture Design	40	38.1	18	38.3
- Lighting	38	36.2	18	38.3
- Restoration and Preservation	38	36.2	16	34.0
- Presentation Skills	39	37.1	13	27.7
- Marketing Design Services	31	29.5	19	40.4
- Space Planning	35	33.3	14	29.8
- Hotel and Restaurant Design	29	27.6	19	40.4
- Advanced Residential Design	30	28.6	16	34.0
- Visual Merchandising	29	27.6	17	36.2
- Contract Design	26	24.8	14	29.8
- Set Design	20	19.0	15	31.9
- Drafting	20	19.0	14	29.8
- Perspective and Rendering	20	19.0	13	27.7
- Furniture History	20	19.0	11	23.4

M- Ratings of Related Courses Outside Interior Design

	First Enrolled Before Fall '93			First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently		
	Took Course		Relevance Rating*	Took Course		Relevance Rating*
	N	PCT		N	PCT	
- Small Business Management 154	5	5.7	1.00	1	2.3	2.00
- Merchandising of Furnishings and Softline Goods - Marketing 106	5	5.7	1.60	0	0	--
- Salesmanship - Marketing 140	9	10.2	1.33	1	2.3	3.00

* Relevance Rating: 3 = Very relevant, 2 = Relevant, 1 = Somewhat Relevant, 0 = Not relevant

N-	Courses Taken Under Old Curriculum	First Enrolled Before Fall '93 N	PCT	First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently N	PCT
	- Took no courses under old curriculum	35	40.7	30	76.9
	- Took at least one course under old curriculum	51	59.3	9	23.1
	Total	86	100.0	39	100.0
	Courses Taken Under Old Curriculum	N	PCT of 51	N	PCT of 9
	- Basic I	51	100.0	8	88.9
	- Basic II	28	54.9	5	55.6
	- Advanced I	6	11.8	0	0
	- Advanced II	4	7.8	0	0

Comparison of Old Curriculum with New Curriculum

		First Enrolled Before 1993 N	PCT	First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently N	PCT
O-	- New curriculum workload is more manageable	17	37.8	2	50.0
	- No difference	20	44.4	2	50.0
	- Old curriculum workload is more manageable	8	17.8	0	0
	Total	45	100.0	4	100.0
P-	- Schedule is improved under new curriculum	13	28.9	1	25.0
	- No difference	24	53.3	3	75.0
	- Schedule was better under old curriculum	8	17.8	0	0
	Total	45	100.0	4	100.0
Q-	- Easier to focus under new curriculum	23	51.1	3	75.0
	- No difference	19	42.2	1	25.0
	- Easier to focus under old curriculum	3	6.7	0	0
	Total	45	100.0	4	100.0
R-	- Took more credit hours per semester under new curriculum	8	17.8	1	20.0
	- No difference	25	55.5	3	60.0
	- Took more credit hours per semester under old curriculum	12	26.7	1	20.0
	Total	45	100.0	5	100.0
S-	- Course load under new curriculum fits life style better	15	33.3	1	25.0
	- No difference	21	46.7	3	75.0
	- Course load under old curriculum fits life style better	9	20.0	0	0
	Total	45	100.0	4	100.0

Learning Styles

T-	How field trips are valued	First Enrolled Before 1993 N	PCT	First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently N	PCT
	- They are very relevant to subject matter	49	48.5	21	47.7
	- They are an important tool in learning	46	45.6	21	47.7
	- They are neither relevant or a help in learning	6	5.9	2	4.6
	Total	101	100.0	44	100.0

U- How Interior Designers obtain source material as perceived by students

	First Enrolled Before 1993		First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently	
	N	PCT	N	PCT
- Trips to the Merchandise Mart	80	76.2	36	76.6
- Trips to manufacturing plants or workrooms	34	32.4	19	40.4
- Manufacturer reps visits to designers offices	34	32.4	14	29.8
- Local retail stores and other showrooms	25	23.8	8	17.0
- Through the mail	19	18.1	13	27.7
- Supplied by employer	10	9.5	4	8.5

V- How Students Learn Best

	N	PCT of 108	N	PCT of 47
- Hands-on-exercises	81	75.0	38	80.9
- Field trips	36	33.0	13	27.7
- Teamwork	36	33.0	6	12.8
- Listening to a lecture	22	20.4	16	34.0
- Independent research	22	20.4	9	19.1
- Analyzing information	10	9.3	5	10.6
- Reading a book	4	3.7	2	4.3
- Giving a presentation	2	1.9	2	4.3

W- How Students Heard About Interior Design Program at Harper College

	N	PCT of 110	N	PCT of 48
- College catalog	41	37.3	16	33.3
- Word-of-Mouth	34	30.9	14	29.2
- Semester schedule mailed to the home	28	25.5	10	20.8
- Interior Design brochure	17	15.5	8	16.7
- Interior designers in field recommended Harper	14	12.7	9	18.8
- Mailings from Interior Design Department	9	8.2	3	6.3
- Home community college	6	5.5	4	8.3
- Harper College advisor	3	2.7	2	4.2
- High school advisor	3	2.7	2	4.2
- Called colleges offering Interior Design degrees	1	.9	2	4.2
- Friend or relative	1	.9	2	4.2
- Student in another class outside Interior Design	2	1.8	0	0
- Harper faculty	1	.9	1	2.1
- Seminar on job market	1	.9	0	0

X-

Travel Time to Harper from Home or Work	N	PCT	N	PCT
- Less than 15 minutes	31	28.2	5	9.8
- 15 to 29 minutes	42	38.2	13	25.5
- 30 to 44 minutes	22	20.0	14	27.5
- 45 to 59 minutes	13	11.8	12	23.5
- 60 to 90 minutes	2	1.8	7	13.7
Total	110	100.0	51	100.0
Average Time	25.3 minutes		39.0 minutes	

FUTURE PLANS

Y- How Students Will Use Their Interior Design Degree	First Enrolled Before 1993 N	First Enrolled Before 1993 PCT	First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently N	First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently PCT
- Career change into the field of Interior Design	46.5	44.3	12	23.1
- First career in Interior Design	27.5	26.2	14	26.9
- Personal Enrichment	9.5	9.0	10	19.2
- Career change within Interior Design specialties	8.5	8.1	5.5	10.6
- As an additional skill area within present job	8	7.6	4.5	8.7
- Leaving Interior Design field	1	1.0	3	5.8
- Enhance small business plans	1	1.0	2	3.8
- Undecided	3	2.8	1	1.9
Total	105	100.0	52	100.0

Z- After Graduation Expectation as to Hours of Work	N	PCT	N	PCT
- Full time - more than 50 hours per week	5	5.3	5	11.6
- Full time - 40 - 50 hours per week	32	33.7	18	41.9
- Full time - 30 - 39 hours per week	23	24.2	8	18.6
- Part time - 20 - 29 hours per week	28	29.5	8	18.5
- Part time - 15 - 19 hours per week	4	4.2	2	4.7
- Part time - less than 15 hours per week	3	3.1	2	4.7
Total	95	100.0	43	100.0
Average	34.7 hrs/wk		37.5 hrs/wk	

AA- Immediate Expectations for Full-time Annual Salary	N	PCT	N	PCT
- Below $12,000	5	5.9	5	11.6
- $12,000 - $17,999	14	16.5	18	41.9
- $18,000 - $24,999	19	22.3	8	18.6
- $25,000 - $29,999	28	32.9	8	18.6
- $30,000 - $40,000	13	15.3	2	4.7
- Over $40,000	6	7.1	2	4.6
Total	85	100.0	43	100.0
Mean	$25,500		$20,300	
Median	$25,800		$17,500	

BB- Type of Work Most Preferred After Graduation	N	PCT	N	PCT
- Work in a small design firm	42	40.4	14.5	34.5
- Develop own business	33	31.7	8.75	20.8
- Work in an architectural firm	9.5	9.1	6	14.3
- Furniture sales	3	2.9	4.25	10.1
- Kitchen and Bath specialty	3.5	3.4	1	2.4
- Sales - Other	1.5	1.4	1.75	4.1
- Window Treatment	2	1.9	1	2.4
- Manufacturers Representative	2	1.9	.75	1.8
- Retail display visual merchandising	1	1.0	1	2.4
- Furniture design	1.5	1.4	0	0
- Buyer for design firm	0	0	1	2.4
- Restaurant design	.5	.5	.5	1.2
- Contract design	1	1.0	0	0
- Space planning	.5	.5	0	0
- Renovation	0	0	.5	1.2
- Undecided	3	2.9	1	2.4
Total	104	100.0	42	100.0

CC- When Student Plans to Work After Graduation	First Enrolled Before 1993 N	PCT	First Enrolled Fall 1993 or More Recently N	PCT
- Immediately	60	59.4	27	61.4
- Within one year	24	23.7	6	13.6
- Within three years	2	2.0	0	0
- Not certain	14	13.9	11	25.0
- Never	1	1.0	0	0
Total	101	100.0	44	100.0

DD- Distance Student is Willing to Travel to Work on First Job	N	PCT	N	PCT
- Up to 10 miles	12	12.4	2	5.0
- Up to 20 miles	32	33.0	6	15.0
- Up to 30 miles	31	32.0	8	20.0
- Up to 40 miles	13	13.4	11	27.5
- Up to 60 miles	2	2.0	5	12.5
- Anywhere	7	7.2	8	20.0
Total	97	100.0	40	100.0
Average	24.7 miles		38.4 miles	

EE- Plans for Taking NCIDQ Exam and Becoming Registered with the State of Illinois	N	PCT	N	PCT
- Definitely YES	44	40.7	27	56.2
- Not sure	50	46.3	18	37.5
- Definitely NO	14	13.0	3	6.3
Total	108	100.0	48	100.0

General Comments - Current Students

- About willingness to commute -- work out of home.
- I am sorry I cannot answer this as I am no longer enrolled in the program. I have taken another job in another career path. I have, however, only the highest regard for the studies and the Department of Interior Design. I especially respected Jackie Mott's teaching and dedication. If I had two lives, I would still be enrolled.
- Re commuting time -- 15-29 minutes from home and 30-44 minutes from work.
- Already working in the field.
- No difference because I did not take Design II for comparison.
- No difference - Poor schedule for night students either not offered frequently or not enough students so class is dropped.
- Teamwork - hands-on exercises - listening to a lecture and field trips.
- I would like to see a computer class for space planning be a required class. This is the future. It could be used in conjunction with all classes to help us with homework and save time.
- What is different between old and new curriculum? I don't know about that.
- Took Interior Design courses a long time ago - some things I don't remember, some things don't apply.
- They are relevant but did not make a big difference in learning.
- They are relevant to the subject and they are an important learning tool.
- Through the mail - added, calling for material to be sent.
- Trips to manufacturing plants or workrooms.
- How far are you willing to commute -- downtown Chicago or any suburb.
- Presently working in the field - have been for the past 8 years.
- We are moving out-of-state -- I will not be pursuing this career.
- A student here 12 years ago - and answered the best I could.
- A lot of questions do not apply -- changed majors.
- Not sure if I will pursue degree in Interior Design.

General Comments - Current Students (cont'd)

- I think the old curriculum was better -- some of the 2-hour courses are a waste of time. I think a few of the teachers are difficult to follow and are unorganized.
- I am a day student and evening student -- go both!
- Only took one course under old and cannot really compare the two. My general summation is that the new one is probably more manageable due to the vast quantity and the depth of knowledge to be learned in this field of study.
- No difference -- still was under extreme pressure last few weeks. Need to get more done earlier and less at final. For us students that are parents, our thoughts are occupied by Christmas obligations and the last two weeks take up more at-home hours than I can afford to give. My final project was incomplete and I worked very hard on it.
- Field trips are an important tool in learning. I think that there are too many trips to the Mart in early semesters.
- Field trips are an important tool in learning but they are usually too much to the personal taste of the instructor.
- A lot of this survey does not apply -- I don't remember a lot of things.
- Dropped the course because it was inappropriate for my needs. I am Japanese and English is my second language. English 101 is my only one subject to graduate. I have been studying English for two years but I cannot take English 101 -- so I cannot graduate.
- I took one class of Interior Design for my own personal enrichment - not interested in this field.
- Take two Interior Design courses -- one if drafting/drawing is involved.
- Take two Interior Design courses.
- Wished she had taken General Education electives first but took IND courses only so she could get job quicker. Regrets this decision now -- Jean Pearson had a very positive impact on her.

Discussion of Results from Survey of Graduates

Among these graduates, 77 percent are employed, 53 percent employed full time, one percent unemployed and 22 percent not employed by choice. Recent graduates are less likely to be employed full time than earlier graduates - 45 percent vs. 56 percent. Examining those employed, two thirds are working in a field at least closely related to interior design. Almost all (93%) of those employed part time prefer it that way. Only 21 percent of those not working in a job closely related to interior design wanted to find a job in interior design and even some of these graduates are still looking for an opportunity.

The mean annual full-time salary was $26,300 which compares to $28,000 for all career alumni. A large majority (78%) are employed in Harper's district or surrounding suburbs which is similar to all career alumni. More than two thirds work within nine miles of their residence.

In terms of present types of work, 44 percent have their own business, 32 percent are in furniture sales, 18 percent in other sales and 17 percent in window treatment. Recent graduates are more likely than earlier graduates to own their own business and be in furniture sales but less likely to be in other sales or window treatment. Comparing their future aspirations with their present job, fewer aspire to own their own business or to be in sales display or window treatment. On the other hand, more aspire to design for a firm or to teach interior design. Recent graduates are more likely than earlier graduates to aspire to design for a firm, teach interior design, or be in window treatment.

Considering their preparation level, graduates felt best prepared for furniture sales, working for a small firm or for window treatment but even in these areas they felt less than well prepared. They felt least prepared to teach interior design, be a manufacturers representative or be in a kitchen and bath specialty (less than somewhat prepared). The most interesting item was that they felt only slightly better than somewhat prepared to own their own business but yet that is what 44 percent of them were doing. This might partially explain why fewer aspire to own their own business in the future.

When asked about taking the NCIDQ exam and becoming registered with the State of Illinois, 65 percent indicated they plan to do neither and only 8 percent have passed the exam and are currently registered. However, more recent graduates than earlier graduates plan to take the NCIDQ exam in the near future - 36 percent vs. 23 percent.

Finally, the graduates were asked what further courses or seminars they would like to take at Harper College. The most frequently mentioned topic was art and antiques. Also popular was accessorizing, lighting, and restorations and preservations. Managing their own business or sales was not listed as a possible choice.

Detailed Results

		Graduates Before Spring 1994		Graduates Spring 1994 and More Recently	
A-	Present Employment	N	PCT	N	PCT
	Employed full time	52	55.9	14	45.2
	Employed part time	19	20.4	10	32.2
	Unemployed but searching	1	1.1	0	0
	Not employed by choice	21	22.6	7	22.6
	Total	93	100.0	31	100.0
	Average full-time hrs/wk	41.3		39.1	
	Average part-time hrs/wk	20.8		21.9	

B-	Relatedness of Present Job to Interior Design	Index	N	PCT	N	PCT
	Identical	+3	32	43.8	10	38.4
	Closely related	+2	11	15.1	4	15.4
	Somewhat related	+1	9	12.3	4	15.4
	Not related	0	21	28.8	8	30.8
	Total		73	100.0	26	100.0
	Average Index		+1.74		+1.62	

C-	Relatedness of Job Aspired To To Interior Design	Index	N	PCT	N	PCT
	Identical	+3	22	42.3	6	31.6
	Closely related	+2	10	19.2	5	26.3
	Somewhat related	+1	9	17.3	4	21.1
	Not related	0	11	21.2	4	21.0
	Total		52	100.0	19	100.0
	Average Index		+1.83		+1.68	

D-	Reasons for Being Employed Part Time	N	PCT	N	PCT
	- Prefer part-time job at this time	16	76.2	9	69.2
	- Cannot find a full-time position in interior design	1	4.8	1	7.7
	- Self-employed	4	19.0	2	15.7
	- Cannot find full-time job in interior design with benefits	0	0	1	7.7
	Total	21	100.0	13	100.0

E- Reason for Job Not Being Closely Related to Interior Design	Graduates Before Spring 1994 N	PCT	Graduates Spring 1994 and More Recently N	PCT
- Present job provides better salary and benefits	11.25	35.2	7	53.8
- Interests have shifted to another field	10	31.2	1	7.7
- Cannot find job in interior design	5.5	17.2	3	23.1
- Still trying to find a job in interior design	1	3.1	1	7.7
- Cannot find job in interior design with suitable hours	1.25	3.9	0	0
- Prefer a job closer to home	2	6.3	.5	3.9
- Work with spouse instead	1	3.1	0	0
- Interior design field too impersonal	0	0	.5	3.8
Total	32	100.0	13	100.0

F- Current Full-Time Annual Salary	Graduates Before Spring 1994 N	PCT	Graduates Spring 1994 and More Recently N	PCT
- $12,000 - $17,999	6	12.5	4	30.8
- $18,000 - $24,999	14	29.2	4	30.8
- $25,000 - $29,999	14	29.2	4	30.7
- $30,000 - $40,000	10	20.8	0	0
- Over $40,000	4	8.3	1	7.7
Total	48	100.0	13	100.0
Median Salary	$26,400		$22,400	
Mean Salary	$27,200		$23,200	

G- Location of Employment	Index	N	PCT	N	PCT
- In Harper's District	0	30	42.3	11	44.0
- In surrounding suburbs	+1	24	33.8	10	40.0
- Downtown Chicago	+2	5	7.0	1	4.0
- Farther away suburbs	+2	7	9.9	0	0
- 40-100 miles from Chicago in Illinois	+3	2	2.8	1	4.0
- Out-of-State	+5	3	4.2	2	8.0
Total		71	100.0	25	100.0
Average Index		+.97		+1.00	

H- Distance Employment from Home	N	PCT	N	PCT
- Employment is in their home	15	21.1	5	19.2
- Less than 5 miles away	19	26.8	6	23.1
- 5 - 9 miles	13	18.3	9	34.6
- 10 - 14 miles	11	15.5	2	7.7
- 15 - 19 miles	7	9.9	3	11.5
- 20 - 30 miles	4	5.6	1	3.9
- 31 - 39 miles	0	0	0	0
- 40 - 49 miles	2	2.8	0	0
Total	71	100.0	26	100.0
Average	8.1 miles		6.8 miles	

I- Type of Interior Design Work Done Now

	Graduates Before Spring 1994 N	PCT of 53	Graduates Spring 1994 and More Recently N	PCT of 19
- Have own business	23	43.4	9	47.4
- Furniture Sales	16	30.2	7	36.8
- Other Sales	12	22.6	1	5.3
- Window Treatment	9	17.0	2	10.5
- Teach Interior Design	2	3.8	4	21.1
- Retail Display/Visual Merchandising	4	7.5	2	10.5
- Kitchen and Bath Specialty	3	5.7	2	10.5
- Work in a small design firm	2	3.8	2	10.5
- Work in an architectural firm	2	3.8	2	10.5
- Manufacturer's Representative	3	5.7	1	5.3
- Commercial Design	1	1.9	1	5.3
- Renovation	1	1.9	0	0
- Painting/Muralist	1	1.9	0	0
- CAD Drafting	1	1.9	0	0

J- Type of Interior Design Work Aspired to in the Future

	N	PCT of 35	N	PCT of 18
- Work in a small design firm	12	34.3	7	38.9
- Have own business	11	31.3	6	33.3
- Teach interior design	8	22.9	5	27.8
- Furniture sales	5	14.3	2	11.1
- Work in an architectural firm	3	8.6	4	22.2
- Kitchen and bath specialty	4	11.4	1	5.6
- Manufacturers representative	4	11.4	1	5.6
- Window treatment	1	2.9	2	11.1
- Set design for commercial photography	2	5.7	0	0
- Retail display/visual merchandising	1	2.9	1	5.6
- Commercial design	0	0	1	0
- Renovation	1	2.9	0	0
- Other sales	0	0	1	5.6
- Accessories	1	2.9	0	0
- Art Therapy	0	0	1	5.6

K- Degree to Which Graduates were Prepared for Their Job by the Interior Design Program at Harper College

Type of Work	Graduates Before Spring 1994 N	Average Degree* of Preparedness	Graduates Spring 1994 and More Recently N	Average Degree * of Preparedness
- Fabrics	1	3.0	0	--
- Design own 6 bedroom home in Wisconsin	1	3.0	0	--
- Office design and furniture	2	3.0	0	--
- Contract design	1	2.0	0	--
- Transferred to 4-year Interior Design program	1	2.0	0	--

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K- cont'd Degree to Which Graduates were Prepared for Their Job by the Interior Design Program at Harper College

Type of Work	Graduates Before Spring 1994 N	Graduates Before Spring 1994 Average Degree* of Preparedness	Graduates Spring 1994 and More Recently N	Graduates Spring 1994 and More Recently Average Degree * of Preparedness
- CAD/Space layout	3	1.33	0	--
- Furniture sales	46	1.74	23	1.83
- Work in small design firm	34	1.50	20	1.65
- Window treatment	37	1.65	18	1.28
- Other sales	32	1.38	16	1.25
- Have own business	43	1.14	20	1.10
- Retail display/visual merchandising	1	1.00	0	--
- Drafting	1	1.00	0	--
- Renovation	1	1.00	0	
- Teach interior design	32	.69	13	1.38
- Manufacturers representative	30	.73	13	1.00
- Kitchen and bath specialty	34	.65	18	.89

* Degree of Preparedness: 3 = Very well 2 = Well 1 = Somewhat 0 = Not at all

L- Plans for Taking the NCIDQ Exam and Becoming Registered with the State of Illinois

	N	PCT	N	PCT
- Have passed the exam and are current registered	7	8.9	2	6.5
- Plan to take the exam in the very near future	18	22.8	11	35.5
- Have no plans to take the exam or to become registered	54	68.3	18	58.0
Total	79	100.0	31	100.0

M- Additional Coursework or Seminars Interested in Enrolling in at Harper College
Ninety of 128 or 70 percent interested in at least one topic.

Topic	Graduates Before Spring 1994 N	Graduates Before Spring 1994 PCT	Graduates Spring 1994 or More Recently N	Graduates Spring 1994 or More Recently PCT
- Art and Antiques	31	47.0	13	54.2
- Accessorizing	23	34.8	14	58.3
- Lighting	27	40.9	9	37.5
- Restoration and Preservation	24	36.4	11	45.8
- Faux finishing	21	31.8	9	37.5
- Window treatments	18	27.3	11	45.8
- Architectural detailing	20	30.3	9	37.5
- Advanced residential design	20	30.3	7	29.2
- Perspective rendering	17	25.8	9	37.5
- Furniture design	16	24.2	9	37.5
- Hotel and restaurant design	16	24.2	8	33.3
- Contract design	16	24.2	7	29.2
- Kitchen and bath design	14	21.2	9	37.5
- Marketing and design services	14	21.2	8	33.3
- Set design	13	19.7	6	25.0
- Space planning	12	18.2	5	20.8
- Presentation skills	9	13.6	7	29.2
- Visual merchandising	9	13.6	6	25.0
- Furniture history	8	12.1	6	25.0
- Drafting	6	9.1	2	8.3
Number in Sample	95		33	
Number choosing at least one topic	66		24	
PCT Choosing at least one topic	69.5 percent		72.7 percent	

N- General Comments from Graduates

- Would like to take the NCIDQ exam but need more information.
- Raising a family at this time - would love to return to the field in the future.
- Full-time student at a 4-year college.
- I have not found a job in the design field that paid enough -- I am still looking.
- Self-employed.
- Seems there are many new additions to the design course offered now as compared to 1980.
- Did not finish survey.,
- Am registered - 20 years experience plus two years degree from Harper. Did not pass NCIDQ.
- Biggest and only disappointment - computer design.
- Salary below $12,000.
- I did work at Walter Smithe furniture because it was part time.
- I have not been working because my parents are not well. I would like to know more about taking the NCIDQ.
- Classes and seminars after graduation helped more.,
- When I got out of Harper I worked at the Merchandise Mart for a year then worked 10 years in the contract furniture business managing multi-million dollar projects. I had a great career but left work to have children and help my husband with his business. Harper was a good training ground, but they need something for the contract and architectural end of the business. It is a tough industry and there are a lot of well educated people getting out of some good schools.
- Four years - One Year
- To my Office -- 8,000 miles a year (1993) driving to clients, shopping, delivering, etc.
- Was informed of "Grandfather" clause after the fact.
- Live out-of-state.
- Would like to own my own business.
- My first year does not reflect this year's salary - I get paid on percent of profit. My second year will give me a more realistic idea as to what my salary will be to come.
- Interested in: Dealing with Difficult People - Sales Tax Preparation - Setting Up an Interior Design Office - Business Shells Related to Interior Design.
- Have office in my home.
- I worked for many years in the interior design field but then the economy fell apart in the 80's so I took another direction. I went to Harper's Travel Agent School - and I love this work now. I was very successful with my own design firm, but then I became burned out.
- Regards to Janet McGeody - if she is still there.
- Self-employed, part time - Consultant -- present job - CAD Operator/Renderer Also am going back to school to learn CAD
- Passed half of the exam.
- I am registered under Grandfather's clause.
- Refresher course in all areas.
- Pay has been lucrative; however, it varies. Design training, excellent. Business, not at all. Should have been grandfathered in, but not informed soon enough. Always interested in updating old skills. Thank you for asking.
- Working in a small design firm for 3 years was the best preparation for having my own business after obtaining degree.
- NCIDQ - I don't know anything about it.
- Grandfathered in and am currently registered.
- Pursue BA in Interior Design or Art Therapy.
- Coursework in CAD.
- Unemployed by fate - Ill health, disabled since graduating. No plans on interior design work.
- Interior Design program and Coordinator bad - coordinator a horrible person and teacher.
- Worked as an interior decorating consultant for a home furnishing store for a few years, then on my own until I started raising a family - Took time off.
- Will be searching for employment very soon - moved shortly after graduating. Internship would have made all the difference. Plan to take the exam in the very near future. After requirements of years of working are fulfilled. Internships are the most important course that should be required.

N- General Comments from Graduates (cont'd)

- With regard to taking the NCIDQ exam - have not thought about it lately - sorry I did not take it.
- On maternity leave.
- Not employed and not seeking employment. Do not want to prepare for NCIDQ exam as it would take more hours to prepared and I am an older student.
- In the process of taking the exam.
- Design her own house -- 9 bathrooms - 6 bedrooms -- in Northern Wisconsin
- May be I will change my mind in the future.

APPENDIX

- **Survey to Current Students**
  - **Cover Letter**
- **Survey to Graduates**
  - **Cover Letter**

William Rainey Harper College
1200 West Algonquin Road
Palatine, Illinois 60067-7398
708-397-3000

Spring 1994

Dear Interior Design Student:

Our Department is surveying students who were enrolled in an Interior Design course during the fall of 1994 to help the Interior Design Department evaluate their new curriculum and to compare it with the previous curriculum. The Department would also like to know your goals and study habits, what academic assistance would be helpful, how you evaluate electives, what additional course work would be helpful and how best you learn. This will help the Department plan future curriculum development support services.

Please take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to answer these questions and return the completed instrument in the stamped self-addressed envelope which we have provided for your convenience.

Because you are a part of a random sample, it is important that everyone respond so the answers received are representative of all Interior Design students. The number on the survey allows us to remove your name when your completed survey is received so you will not be bothered with a second mailing of the survey or a follow-up telephone call.

On behalf of Harper College we thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

John A. Lucas

John A. Lucas, Director
Office of Planning and Research

jc
Enclosures

SURVEY OF CURRENT INTERIOR DESIGN STUDENTS

1- How many Interior Design courses do you typically take in one semester? Check (x) one.

_____ A. One _____ C . Three _____ E. Five
_____ B. Two _____ D. Four

2- How many general education or other courses do you typically take in one semester? Check (x) one.

_____ A. None _____ C. Two _____ E. Four
_____ B. One _____ D. Three _____ F. Five

3- What are your degree goals at Harper College? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Earn an Associate Degree in Interior Design
_____ B. Earn another Associate Degree - What Field?_____
_____ C. Already have an Associate Degree - do not need another Associate Degree.
_____ D. Already have a Bachelor's Degree - do not need an Associate Degree.
_____ E. Have no degree - just plan to take a few courses in Interior Design

4- If you plan to earn an Associate Degree in Interior Design at Harper College, how long do you expect this to take? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Two Years _____ C. Four Years
_____ B. Three Years _____ D. Five or More Years

5- Why have you dropped Interior Design courses? Check (x) all that apply.

_____ A. Have not dropped any Interior Design classes.
_____ B. Outside responsibilities
_____ C. Took too many courses
_____ D. Health reasons
_____ E. Personality conflicts with instructor
_____ F. Course inappropriate for student's needs
_____ G. Course level too difficult
_____ H. Course level too simple
_____ I. Course times proved to be too inconvenient
_____ J. Course was canceled
_____ K. Was inadequately prepared
_____ L. Other - Specify_____

6- What are the average number of hours per week you spend on homework - on average - for one Interior Design Class? Select a class you think represents the average time spent. Check (x) one.

_____ A. 1 - 3 hours _____ E. 13 - 15 hours
_____ B. 4 - 6 hours _____ F. 16 - 20 hours
_____ C. 7 - 9 hours _____ G. 21 - 25 hours
_____ D. 10 - 12 hours _____ H. 26 - 30 hours

7- Evening and Saturday schedules - Check (x) the number of evening classes or Saturday classes you would enroll in if offered and whether you were typically a day or evening student.

	Number of evening classes you would enroll in if offered				Number of Saturday morning classes you would enroll in if offered			
	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
You are typically a:								
_____ A. Day student								
_____ B. Evening Student								

8- If there was an open lab available with someone to assist you, would you use it?Check (x) each column.

With an Interior Design Instructor
_____ A. Definitely YES
_____ B. Might use it
_____ C. Definitely NO

With an Interior Design Student Tutor
_____ A. Definitely YES
_____ B. Might use it
_____ C. Definitely NO

9- If you would use the assisted open lab, what would be the best time for you to use it? Check (x) one.

_____ A. 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. _____ C. 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
_____ B. 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. _____ D. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

10- How familiar are you with the Tutoring Center at Harper College? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Use the Center
_____ B. Know where the Center is but have never had to use it.
_____ C. Know little about the Tutoring Center

11- If you are interested in using an Interior Design tutoring service, in what areas do you require extra help? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Drafting
_____ B. Space Planning
_____ C. Furniture History
_____ D. Test taking
_____ E. Board Layout
_____ F. Verbal Presentations
_____ G. Materials and Finishes
_____ H. Note taking and general studies
_____ I. Other - specify:_____
_____

12- Indicate additional course work - outside the Interior Design core curriculum - you would like to take. Check (x) all that apply

_____ A. Lighting
_____ B. Kitchen and Bath Design
_____ C. Space Planning
_____ D. Marketing Design Services
_____ E. Faux Finishing
_____ F. Set Design
_____ G. Perspective and Rendering
_____ H. Art and Antiques
_____ I. Advanced Residential Design
_____ J. Presentation Skills
_____ K. Contract Design
_____ L. Drafting
_____ M. Accessorizing
_____ N. Architectural Detailing
_____ O. Hotel and Restaurant Design
_____ P. Visual Merchandising
_____ Q. Furniture History
_____ R. Window Treatments
_____ S. Furniture Design
_____ T. Restoration and Preservation

Evaluate the following courses by indicating whether or not you took the course and if you did, how relevant was it to Interior Design. Check (x) the relevant columns.

	Did you take the course?		How relevant was the course to Interior Design			
	Yes	No	Very Relevant	Relevant	Somewhat Relevant	Not Relevant
13- Small Business Mgmt. 154	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
14- Merchandising of Furnishings & Softline Goods MKT/106	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
15- Salesmanship - MKT/140	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

16- What Interior Design courses did you take under the OLD Curriculum? Check (x) all that apply.

_____ A. No courses under the Old Curriculum
_____ B. Basic I
_____ C. Basic II
_____ D. Advanced I
_____ E. Advanced II

If you took courses under the Old Curriculum, compare it with the New Curriculum by answering questions Nos. 17 - 21. If you did not take courses under the Old Curriculum, please skip to question No. 22.

17- Workload - Check (x) one.
_____ A. New curriculum is more manageable
_____ B. No difference
_____ C. Old curriculum was more manageable

18- Schedule - Check (x) one.
_____ A. Improved under new curriculum
_____ B. No difference
_____ C. Was better under old curriculum

19- Ease of focus on the subject of the class. - Check (x) one.
_____ A. Easier to focus under new curriculum
_____ B. No difference
_____ C. Easier to focus under the old curriculum

20- Credit hours of Interior Design taken per semester? Check (x) one.
_____ A. Took more under new curriculum
_____ B. No difference
_____ C. Took more under old curriculum

21- Course load in Interior Design -- Check (x) one.
_____ A. New curriculum fits my life style better
_____ B. No difference
_____ C. Old curriculum fit my life style better

22- How do you value field trips in Interior Design? Check (x) one.
_____ A. They are very relevant to the subject matter.
_____ B. They are an important tool in learning.
_____ C. They are neither relevant or a help in learning.

23- Check (x) <u>two ways</u> you think practicing Interior Designers obtain source materials?
____ A. Through the mail
_____ B. Trips to the Merchandise Mart
_____ C. Trips to manufacturing plants or workrooms
_____ D. Manufacturer representative's visits to designers offices
_____ E. Local retail stores and other showrooms
_____ F. Supplied by employer

24- Check (x) <u>two ways</u> in which you learn best.
_____ A. Teamwork
_____ B. Independent Research
_____ C. Hands-on-Exercises
_____ D. Giving a Presentation
_____ E. Reading a book
_____ F. Listening to a lecture
_____ G. Field Trips
_____ H. Analyzing Information

25- Where did you hear about the Interior Design program at Harper College? Check (x) all that apply.
_____ A. College Catalog
_____ B. Semester Schedule mailed to the home
_____ C. Harper College Advisor
_____ D. High School Advisor
_____ E. Interior Design Brochure
_____ F. Mailings from Interior Design Department
_____ G. Word-of-Mouth
_____ H. Interior Designers in field recommended Harper
_____ I. Interior Design Professional Association
_____ J. Other - specify:_____
_____

26- From your home or work, what is your travel time to or from Harper College? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Less than 15 minutes
_____ B. 15 - 29 minutes
_____ C. 30 - 44 minutes
_____ D. 45 - 59 minutes
_____ E. 60 - 90 minutes
_____ F. Over 90 minutes

Future Plans:

27- How will you use this Interior Design degree? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Career change within Interior Design specialties
_____ B. Career change into the field of Interior Design
_____ C. First career in Interior Design
_____ D. As an additional skill area with my present job.
_____ E. Personal enrichment
_____ F. Other - Specify:_____
_____

28- After graduation, what are your expectations as to hours of work? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Full time - more than 50 hours per week.
_____ B. Full time - 40 - 50 hours per week
_____ C. Full time - 30 - 39 hours per week
_____ D. Part time - 20 - 29 hours per week
_____ E. Part time - 15 - 19 hours per week
_____ F. Part time - less than 15 hours per week

29- What are your immediate expectations for a full-time annual salary? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Below $12,000
_____ B. $12,000 - $17,999
_____ C. $18,000 - $24,999
_____ D. $25,000 - $29,999
_____ E. $30,000 - $40,000
_____ F. Over $40,000

30- What type of work would you most like to do after graduation? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Develop own business
_____ B. Work in small design firm
_____ C. Work in architectural firm
_____ D. Kitchen & bath specialty
_____ E. Furniture Sales
_____ F. Sales - Other
_____ G. Window treatment
_____ H. Manufacturers representative
_____ I. Other - Specify _____
_____

31- When do you plan to work after obtaining your Interior Design degree? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Immediately
_____ B. Within one year
_____ C. Within three years
_____ D. Not certain
_____ E. Never

32- How far are you willing to commute to work for your first job? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Up to 10 miles
_____ B. Up to 20 miles
_____ C. Up to 30 miles
_____ D. Up to 40 miles
_____ E. Up to 60 miles
_____ F. Up to 90 miles
_____ G. Anywhere

33- What are your plans for taking the NCIDQ exam and becoming registered with the State of Illinois? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Definitely YES
_____ B. Not sure
_____ C. Definitely NO

THANK YOU for responding to this survey - your feedback is very important to Harper College.

William Rainey Harper College
1200 West Algonquin Road
Palatine, Illinois 60067-7398
708-397-3000

Spring 1994

Dear Interior Design Graduate:

Our Department is surveying Interior Design Graduates of Harper College to gain a picture of your employment opportunities, your future career goals, how well you were prepared and interest you might have in future courses or workshops. The Interior Design Department will use this information to plan future curriculum development and ways to market the program.

Please take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to answer these questions and return the completed instrument in the stamped self-addressed envelope which we have provided for your convenience.

Because you are part of a random sample, it is important that everyone respond so the answers received are representative of all Interior Design graduates. The number on the survey allows us to remove your name when your completed survey is received so you will not be bothered with a second mailing of the survey or a follow-up telephone call.

On behalf of Harper College we thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

John A. Lucas

John A. Lucas, Director
Office of Planning and Research

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SURVEY OF INTERIOR DESIGN GRADUATES

1- Describe your present employment situation. Check (x) one.

_____ A. Employed full time - Hours per week_____
_____ B. Employed part time - Hours per week _____
_____ C. Unemployed but searching for employment
_____ D. Not employed by choice

2- How related to Interior Design is the job you now hold and the job you aspire to in the near future: Check (x) one item in each column.

Degree of Relatedness		Present Job	Job you Aspire To in the Near Future
A.	Identical	_____	_____
B.	Closely Related	_____	_____
C.	Somewhat Related	_____	_____
D.	Not Related	_____	_____
E.	Not Employed	_____	_____

3- If your job is part time, why is this? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Prefer a part-time job at this point in my life.
_____ B. Cannot find a full-time job in Interior Design.
_____ C. Cannot find a full-time job close enough to home.
_____ D. Cannot find a full-time job that is acceptable with regard to salary and/or content.
_____ E. Other - Specify:_____
_____

4- If your job is not closely related to Interior Design, why not? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Cannot find a job in Interior Design.
_____ B. Prefer a job closer to home.
_____ C. Present job provides better salary and benefits.
_____ D. Interests have shifted to another field.
_____ E. Other - Specify: _____
_____

5- What is your current full-time annual salary? Leave blank if not employed or employed part time. Check (x) one.

_____ A. $12,000 - $17,999
_____ B. $18,000 - $24,999
_____ C. $25,000 - $29,999
_____ D. $30,000 - $40,000
_____ E. Over $40,000

6- Where are you employed? Check (x) one.

_____ A. In Harper's District
_____ B. In surrounding suburbs
_____ C. Downtown Chicago
_____ D. Farther away suburbs
_____ E. 40-100 miles from Chicago in Illinois
_____ F. In Illinois, more than 100 miles from Chicago
_____ G. Out-of-State

7- How far is your employment from your home?

_____ A. Less than 5 miles
_____ B. 5 - 9 miles
_____ C. 10-14 miles
_____ D. 15-19 miles
_____ E. 20-30 miles
_____ F. 31-39 miles
_____ G. 40-49 miles
_____ H. 50-60 miles
_____ I. More than 60 miles
_____ J. Located in my home

- Over -

8- Type of Interior Design work you do now or aspire to do in future.

Type of Work		Check (x) If you do this now	Check (x) if you do not do this now but aspire to do this in the future
A.	Have own business	_____	_____
B.	Work in small design firm	_____	_____
C.	Work in an architectural firm	_____	_____
D.	Kitchen and bath specialty	_____	_____
E.	Furniture sales	_____	_____
F.	Other sales	_____	_____
G.	Window treatment	_____	_____
H.	Manufacturers representative	_____	_____
I.	Teach Interior Design	_____	_____
J.	Other - Specify_____	_____	_____
K.	_____	_____	_____
L.	_____	_____	_____

9- How Harper's Interior Design Program prepared you for your work. Check (x) one column for each type of work that is applicable.

Preparedness		Very Well	Well	Somewhat	Not at all
A.	Have own business	_____	_____	_____	_____
B.	Work in small design firm	_____	_____	_____	_____
C.	Kitchen and bath speciality	_____	_____	_____	_____
D.	Furniture sales	_____	_____	_____	_____
E.	Other sales	_____	_____	_____	_____
F.	Window treatment	_____	_____	_____	_____
G.	Manufacturers representative	_____	_____	_____	_____
H.	Teach Interior Design	_____	_____	_____	_____
I.	Other - specify_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
J.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
K.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

10- What are your plans with regard to taking the NCIDQ exam and becoming registered with the State of Illinois? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Have passed the exam and am currently registered.
_____ B. Plan to take the exam in the very near future.
_____ C. Have no plans to take the exam or to become registered.

11- Please indicate additional coursework or seminars in the following areas which you would be interested in taking. Check (x) all that apply.

_____ A. Lighting
_____ B. Kitchen and bath design
_____ C. Space planning
_____ D. Marketing design services
_____ E. Faux finishing
_____ F. Set design
_____ G. Perspective rendering
_____ H. Art and antiques
_____ I. Advanced residential design
_____ J. Presentation skills
_____ K. Contract design
_____ L. Drafting
_____ M. Accessorizing
_____ N. Architectural detailing
_____ O. Hotel - restaurant design
_____ P. Visual merchandising
_____ Q. Furniture history
_____ R. Window treatments
_____ S. Furniture design
_____ T. Restoration and Preservation

THANK YOU for taking time out of your busy schedule to respond to this survey.
Your feedback is very important to Harper College.